

Appl. No. 09/943,904
Amdt. dated January 23, 2006
Reply to Office action of 11-30-2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method comprising:
adding a new initiation module to a BIOS firmware of a computing system having an extensible firmware architecture, the BIOS firmware having a plurality of initiation modules including recovery initiation modules for recovery of the computing system and non-recovery modules;
automatically evaluating the new initiation module; and
designating the new initiation module as a recovery initiation module if the new initiation module is required for the recovery of the computing system.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
designating the new initiation module as a recovery initiation module if another recovery initiation module depends upon the new initiation module.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising:
executing only recovery initiation modules in an event of a recovery restart.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the new initiation module is an updated recovery initiation module added to the BIOS firmware to replace an outdated recovery initiation module.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
automatically evaluating at least one of the recovery initiation modules;
removing recovery initiation module designation from the at least one of the recovery initiation modules if the designation is solely due to dependence thereon by the outdated recovery initiation module.
6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the recovery initiation modules are rendered unalterable.

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7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the recovery initiation modules reside in a fault-tolerant firmware block.
8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the recovery initiation modules are contained in a 64 kilobyte block of code.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the recovery of the computing system is necessitated by an event selected from the group consisting of power failure, hardware failure, and security error.
10. (previously presented) A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:
 - adding a new initiation module to a BIOS firmware of a computing system having an extensible firmware architecture, the BIOS firmware having a plurality of initiation modules including recovery initiation modules for recovery of the computing system and non-recovery modules;
 - automatically evaluating the new initiation module; and
 - designating the new initiation module as a recovery initiation module if new the initiation module is required for the recovery of the computing system.
11. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the operations further comprise:
 - designating the new initiation module as a recovery initiation module if another recovery initiation module depends upon the new initiation module.
12. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the operations further comprise executing only recovery initiation modules in an event of a recovery restart.
13. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the new initiation module is an updated recovery initiation module added to the BIOS firmware to replace an outdated recovery initiation module.

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14. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the method further comprise:

automatically evaluating at least one of the recovery initiation modules;
removing recovery initiation module designation from the at least one of the recovery initiation modules if the designation is solely due to dependence thereon by the outdated recovery initiation module.

15. (original) The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the recovery initiation modules are rendered unalterable.

16. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the recovery initiation modules reside in a fault-tolerant firmware block.

17. (original) The machine-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the recovery initiation modules are contained in a 64 kilobyte block of code.

18. (previously presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the recovery of the computing system is necessitated by an event selected from the group consisting of power failure, hardware failure, and security error.

19. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a BIOS firmware of a computing system having an extensible firmware architecture, the BIOS firmware of the computing system having a plurality of initiation modules including recovery initiation modules for recovering of the computing system and non-recovery modules; and

a firmware update utility to automatically evaluate a new initiation module added to the BIOS firmware and designating the new initiation module as a recovery initiation module if the new initiation module is required for the recovery of the computing system.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the new initiation module is designated as a recovery initiation module if another recovery initiation module depends upon the new initiation module.

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21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein only recovery initiation modules are executed in an event of a recovery restart.
22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the new initiation module is an updated recovery initiation module added to the BIOS firmware to replace an outdated recovery initiation module.
23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein at least one of the recovery initiation modules is automatically evaluated such that if a designation of the at least one of the recovery initiation modules as a recovery initiation module is solely due to dependence thereon by the outdated recovery initiation module, the designation is removed.
24. (original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the recovery initiation modules are rendered unalterable.
25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the recovery initiation modules reside in a fault-tolerant firmware block.
26. (original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the recovery initiation modules are contained in a 64 kilobyte block of code.
27. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the recovery of the computing system is necessitated by an event selected from the group consisting of power failure, hardware failure, and security error.